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and we are inclined to the belief that it is Post-Tertiary because, among other things, it carries fresh-water fossils. We are also inclined to the belief that the Pascagoula formation will eventually turn out to be Pliocene. If we are correct in our belief that the Grand Gulf is of Post-Tertiary age, the Lafayette formation must be advanced higher in the scale than the position now generally assigned to it.

EUGENE A. SMITH,
TRUMAN H. ALDRICH.

THE JOHN FRITZ MEDAL.

A 'JOHN FRITZ MEDAL,' established by personal and professional friends in celebration of the eightieth birthday, August 21, 1902, of the 'Nestor of the American Iron and Steel Industry,' and in honor of that venerable pioneer, was formally announced at a banquet tendered Mr. Fritz by its founders, on October 31, at the Waldorf-Astoria. The medal is to be annually awarded to perpetuate the memory of his achievements and for notable scientific or industrial discoveries, inventions or other great work performed by its recipients.

The new honor is to be conferred on men nominated, not less than one year in advance of the date of award, by a board consisting of sixteen men, chosen in equal numbers from each of the four national engineering societies by their governing bodies. The medal is of gold, its design by Mr. Brenner, the obverse presenting a good portrait of Mr. Fritz, the reverse bearing the symbolic device, a messenger, her right hand sustaining a shield on which is to appear the name of the recipient of the medal, the left hand carrying laurels and a palm branch. In the distance appears the torch of learning and a scroll on which is inscribed a statement of the purpose of the medal. The endowment of this foundation is made by contributions from several hundred members of the engineering profession and amounts to about \$6,000. Its recipient will also be given a certificate stating the origin and purpose of the medal and the specific achievement for which the individual award is made. The plan adopted is similar to that on which the award of the famous Bessemer Medal of the Iron and Steel Institution of Great

Britain is made by its founders and which medal has been several times awarded to distinguished Americans, Mr. Fritz among others. In the present case, the specific provision is made that 'there shall be no restriction on account of nationality or sex.'

John Fritz, in whose honor this new and important scientific distinction is established, was born at Londonderry, Pennsylvania, August 21, 1822, the son of a reputable farmer. At the age of sixteen he entered a country machine shop at Parkersburg, later a similar establishment at Norristown, to learn the business. He next took up the construction of rolling mills and, meantime, made himself familiar with every detail of the iron and steel business from that of reducing the ores in the blast furnace to the puddling of iron and the final work of the rolling mill. He became, in due time, an authority and acknowledged expert in his art and erected some of the most important establishments of the time, including the Cambria Iron Works, and, finally the now enormous plant of the Bethlehem Iron and Steel Works, of which latter he was manager and with which he remained for a generation. He introduced some of the most important of modern methods and apparatus and was one of the earliest and most successful among the pioneers in the use of the Bessemer process in the United States.

Since his retirement from the superintendency of the mammoth establishment which grew up under his hand, Mr. Fritz has been engaged in many enterprises as consulting expert and in some public works. He is a member of the principal associations, professional and scientific, in his field, both at home and abroad. He still enjoys good health and is strong and active and as much interested in life and good works as ever.

The foundation of this medal is hoped to prove a valuable incentive and aid to applied science, evidencing appreciation of good work and great deeds on the part of able men, as well as constituting a permanent and worthy monument to the man whose own admirable life and great work is thus given an enduring and fitting memorial.

R. H. THURSTON.